

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-18 are pending in the above-identified application, and were rejected. With this Amendment, claim 15 was amended. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-18 remain at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-13, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,359,725) in view of Nakashima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,650). Claims 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,359,725) in view of Nakashima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,650), and further in view of Takezawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,392,265). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 is directed to an information management method comprising generating protection information for protecting the storage area of a recording medium storing a second string of codes recorded by a second coding technique from any recording, editing and erasing operations of a first apparatus. The first apparatus is adapted to handle a first string of codes by a first coding technique and refer to the first management data stored in a first management area. The method also comprises the step of arranging the protection information in the first management data area as one of said first management data. The method further comprises protecting the storage area of the medium storing said second string of codes from any recording, editing and erasing operations of said first apparatus, while allowing reproducing operations of said first apparatus, on the basis of said protection information when the medium storing said

second string of codes is operated by said first apparatus. The protection information indicates that the protection mode of the track on the medium is prohibited from rewriting.

Garcia, et al. is directed to a method and apparatus for making a single CD-ROM disc useable on computers having unrelated operating systems or for multi-media platforms. (See Abstract). "In essence, the present invention performs modification to the CD-ROM image hard disk directory on disk 21 correcting problems which are not properly handled by the software 19 used by compact disc pressers to create CD-ROM masters." (See Col. 3, lines 30-35). Data and programs which are desired to be pressed onto the CD-ROM disk are stored in their native file formats. (See Col. 1, lines 66-68). Both PC files and Macintosh files are transferred to an MS-DOS formatted Bernoulli cartridge, prior to pressing. (See Col. 2, lines 3-5). Once pressed onto a CD-ROM disk, it is not possible to record, edit or erase these files from the CD-ROM disk. Rather, as the Examiner indicates, RENAMER is needed to access the Macintosh data on the CD-ROM. (See Final Office Action at 8.) Garcia, et al. does not disclose or suggest generating protection information for protecting the storage area of a recording medium storing a second string of codes recorded by a second coding technique from any recording, editing and erasing operations of a first apparatus adapted to handle a first string of codes by a first coding technique and refer to the first management data stored in a first management area, as required by claim 1. Thus, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the protection information indicate that the protection mode of the track on the medium is prohibited from rewriting, as taught by Nakashima et al., combined with the method/apparatus of Garcia et al. to derive claim 1. For reasons similar to those discussed above


with regard to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-18 are also allowable over Garcia et al. in view of Nakashima et al. and/or Takezawa.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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